

South Korea's Diplomatic Tightrope: Navigating US Alliance, China Relations,

South Korea Diplomacy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. In June 2026, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung engaged in discussions with U.S. President Donald Trump regarding North Korea's nuclear program. What approach to denuclearization did Lee advocate for during these discussions?

- A) An immediate, all-or-nothing denuclearization.
- B) A phased approach focusing on immediate curbs of nuclear and missile activities.**
- C) A conditional approach tied to economic aid packages.
- D) A multilateral approach involving only the US and North Korea.

2. During recent US-South Korea nuclear cooperation talks in June 2026, what key agenda items were discussed, reflecting Seoul's push for enhanced nuclear capabilities?

- A) Developing advanced cyber warfare capabilities and securing uranium enrichment rights.
- B) Building nuclear-powered submarines and expanding shipbuilding cooperation.**
- C) Establishing joint nuclear research facilities and enhancing nuclear waste disposal protocols.
- D) Securing access to US nuclear technology for energy generation and developing missile defense systems.

3. In June 2026, amidst global instability, Japan and South Korea accelerated bilateral coordination. What was identified as a significant test to the limits of their cooperation, despite efforts to deepen ties?

- A) Contrasting approaches to China and North Korea.**
- B) Disagreements over historical interpretations of World War II.
- C) Competition in the semiconductor industry.
- D) Divergent energy policies regarding Russia.

4. As of June 2026, South Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy aims to build a region that is free, peaceful, and prosperous. Which of the following is a core principle underpinning this strategy?

- A) Exclusivity, unilateral action, and transparency.
- B) Inclusiveness, trust, and reciprocity.**
- C) Non-alignment, isolationism, and bilateralism.
- D) Hegemony, protectionism, and strategic ambiguity.

5. In June 2026, North Korea strongly denounced a joint statement by South Korea and the European Union condemning Pyongyang's military ties with Russia. How did North Korea characterize its cooperation with Russia in response?

- A) A necessary measure for self-defense against external aggression.
- B) An exercise of sovereign rights and a grave hostile act by the EU and South Korea.**
- C) A temporary alliance to counter US influence in the region.
- D) A non-military exchange aimed at fostering cultural understanding.

6. During a press conference on June 8, 2026, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung indicated reluctance to deepen military cooperation with Japan, specifically regarding an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). What was his stated reason for this reluctance?

- A) Concerns over Japan's growing military role and historical grievances.
- B) Public sentiment in South Korea making it difficult to accept such an arrangement at this stage.**
- C) The need for a mutual defense treaty before considering an ACSA.
- D) The ongoing dispute over Takeshima/Dokdo Island.

7. In June 2026, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson commended South Korea after a South Korean official reiterated the language on Taiwan in the China-ROK joint communique. What did the official state regarding Taiwan?

- A) The ROK recognizes Taiwan as an independent nation and supports its sovereignty.
- B) The ROK recognizes the PRC as the sole legal government of China and respects China's position that Taiwan is part of China.**
- C) The ROK advocates for a two-China policy and supports cross-strait dialogue.
- D) The ROK maintains neutrality on the Taiwan issue and prioritizes economic ties.

8. The defense chiefs of South Korea, the United States, and Japan met in Singapore in late May 2026. What was the primary purpose of this meeting, despite the lack of detailed security discussions?

- A) To finalize the terms of the trilateral security pact.
- B) To address immediate threats from North Korea and China.
- C) To reaffirm their commitment to trilateral security cooperation.**
- D) To negotiate joint military exercises in the East Sea.